

card insertion operation and to move in a card eject direction in response to a card eject operation to eject the card;

an elastic locking piece having a locking portion to engage a single side of the card in the recess of the card and a stationary portion fixed to the eject member; and

a locking piece guide means for guiding the elastic locking piece during the card eject operation and the card insertion operation wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become elastically deformed during the card eject operation to move the locking portion away from the recess of the card and wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become released from the elastic deformation during the card insertion operation thereby causing the elastic locking piece to move toward the card by an elastic recovery force to engage the locking portion in the recess of the card.

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REMARKS

This is in reply to the Examiner's Official Action dated January 13, 2003. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to more appropriately claim the invention. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 will remain pending. The above amendment with the following remarks are submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action. Reconsideration of this application in light of these remarks, and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

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